*Legislative Clock Ticking; Arizona Law A Call To Action*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**(Washington, DC)** – *Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez (D-IL-4), Chairman of Immigration Task Force of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, held a press conference today with dozens of other Members of Congress to recognize the milestone of 100 co-sponsors for the Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America's Security and Prosperity Act (CIR-ASAP/H.R. 4321).  The bill is sponsored by Rep. Solomon Ortiz (D-TX) and co-sponsored primarily by members of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, Progressive Caucus, and Congressional Hispanic Caucus. More information on the bill is available* [here](#)
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*Some of the Members of Congress who attended the press conference:  Joe Baca (CA), Judy Chu (CA), Yvette Clarke (NY), Joseph Crowley (NY), Charles Gonzalez (TX), Gene Greene (TX), Raul Grijalva (AZ), Mike Honda (CA), Sheila Jackson Lee (TX), Barbara Lee (CA), Grace Napolitano (CA), Solomon Ortiz (TX), Jared Polis (CO), Gregorio Sablan (D-Northern Marianas), Jan Schakowsky (IL), Jose Serrano (NY), Nydia Velázquez (NY), Anthony Weiner (NY), and Lynn Woolsey (CA)*

*The following is the opening statement delivered by Rep. Gutierrez:*

We have reached the milestone of 100 co-sponsors for the Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America Security and Prosperity bill - a bill I helped put together with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and which has been embraced and supported by the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, and the Congressional Progressive Caucus.  We will hear from the leaders of each of these caucuses today, as well as a number of other Members who are not only committed to reform themselves, but are helping us reach out to other Members and build support.

We know the legislative clock is ticking.  We know people are getting deported at the highest rate in modern history.  We know that the inter-related problems of illegal immigration, clogged and unattainable legal immigration, border security, deportation, detention, and a two-tiered labor market that hurts all workers will not solve themselves.

We know that the Arizona law -- which, unless something happens, will go into effect in about one month -- is a call to action.  It is a cry of frustration.  It is not a rejection of comprehensive immigration reform but an alarm bell that the American people are angry, they want solutions, and they want a rational legal immigration system that secures the border and gets all immigrants into the system and playing by the rules.

This next month will be critical.  After the August recess, we all know the chances of major action dwindle and that if the Arizona law is allowed to go into effect, it will cause massive disruptions and set a dangerous precedent.  As American leaders, we must show the way to fix an American problem: our broken immigration system.

The American people want action, and they want law and order restored to the immigration system.  My fellow Democrats, we support the policy the American people actually want; the policy the American people see as pragmatic, and the policy they see as the law and order approach to the immigration issue. Now we must be brave enough to fight for it. Where Republicans see voter frustration and want to exploit it, we should be smart enough to respond to voter frustration by solving the problem that actually frustrates them.

Americans know that trying to drive out 12 million immigrants is not going to happen.  And most

immigrants are not leaving on their own, no matter how tough we make it.  We simply cannot expect to get rid of a population about the size of Ohio (or their 4 million U.S. citizen children). They will not magically disappear.  So an immigration policy based on a fantasy no longer flies with the American people. It has no credibility. The American people want a different, more realistic solution.

We need a rational solution.  We need a practical solution.  We need a fair solution.  That solution, CIR ASAP, is on the table and it should not languish there while the American people demand action.

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